

### **Clarification on MenB and MenACWY vaccination for asplenic and splenic dysfunction:**

This information has been included in this week's bulletin to address a number of queries on this topic. Children and adults with asplenia or splenic dysfunction may have an increased risk of infection and may have a sub-optimal response to vaccination. Additional vaccinations are advised for these patients.

### **Who is categorised as having a splenic dysfunction?**

The pneumococcal chapter (25) of the Green Book identifies that conditions such as homozygous sickle cell disease and coeliac syndrome may lead to splenic dysfunction. These patients should be vaccinated with the same schedule as asplenic patients.

### **Vaccination scheduling:**

There is full detail for vaccinating children who are asplenic or diagnosed with splenic dysfunction which is detailed in the Green Book, Chapter 7, pages 53-54.

For adults who have just had their spleen removed or diagnosed with splenic dysfunction, the following schedule should be followed

- A dose of Hib/MenC and the first dose of MenB vaccine, along with the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23)
- One month later, a dose of MenACWY conjugate vaccine and the second dose of MenB
- Flu vaccine should be given yearly
- A Booster dose of PPV would then be recommended in 5 years' time and every five years thereafter. Testing of antibody levels prior to vaccination is not required.
- There are currently no recommendations for further booster doses on Hib/Men C or Men B or MenACWY.

For adults who had their spleen removed or diagnosed with splenic dysfunction some time previously you will need to check that they have received:

- A dose of Hib/MenC
- A dose of MenACWY conjugate vaccine (at least one month after Hib/MenC)
- A dose of PPV (and one every five years after the first)
- Two doses of MenB vaccine, at least a month apart
- Flu vaccine should be given annually

There is no upper age restriction for these vaccinations.

### **Vaccine supply and reimbursement for asplenic patients**

Immunisations for people who are asplenic or with splenic dysfunction fall outside of the national routine schedule and the vaccine stock supplied from Immform must not be used. Vaccines for use outside of the national routine schedule must be ordered in separately through the wholesalers. To claim payment for vaccines for use outside of the routine national schedule, practices will need to submit an FP34D/FP34PD Appendix form or FP10 prescription form, as for other personally administered injections.

## **PGDs**

Vaccinating patients who are asplenic or diagnosed with splenic dysfunction is not covered by PGDs. However this could be done under Patient Specific Direction (PSD). This is a written instruction (e.g. prescription or written or electronic instruction in the patient's medical record) from a doctor or independent prescriber for a medicine to be supplied or administered to a named patient.

A PSD must include

- Name of patient
- Name and dose of the prescribed medication to be administered
- Evidence that the patient has been individually assessed by the prescriber for the suitability